



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **Lieutenant Governor Maldonado Cuts Ribbon on Victor Valley College Solar Power Plant**

*College partnered with SolFocus to build new facility, using cutting-edge technology to supply 30 percent of campus electricity needs*

VICTORVILLE – California Lieutenant Governor Abel Maldonado joined officials from Victor Valley College and the CEO and President of SolFocus at the Grand Opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the installation of a 1 megawatt solar facility of high concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) systems for Victor Valley College. The solar micro-generating facility will produce approximately 30 percent of the campus electricity demand, reducing the college's costs and its carbon footprint.

"Green energy is the new frontier of California's economy that will create sustainable jobs and fuel our economic recovery," said Lieutenant Governor Maldonado. "SolFocus and Victor Valley College's project is a model on how private and public enterprises can work together to achieve an environmentally-sound solution to energy needs and provide training opportunities for a green workforce."

Construction on the six acre plant began in April on the college's main campus, and consists of 122 solar arrays. When the plant is completed in May of this year, it will be the largest energy facility of its kind in North America.

"After reviewing several options for a solar provider, SolFocus demonstrated that it could deliver the best value in solar energy for the college," said Victor Valley College President Dr. Robert Silverman. "This project can be a model for other colleges and universities in meeting energy needs and supporting a green jobs economy."

The Victor Valley solar plant will immediately reduce campus energy costs, increase the college's revenue streams from outside sources, and creates training opportunities for sustainable jobs in the new energy economy.

One source of funding for the project was provided by a capital construction bond, Measure JJ, approved by California voters in November 2008 along with other capital funds. The college will receive approximately \$4 million in performance-based incentives that will be paid out over five years through Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's California Solar Initiative program.

SolFocus will be supporting the college in its curriculum development around advanced solar energy technology, an effort that focuses on sustaining a green jobs workforce in California and spurring economic growth in the clean tech sector.

“This project between SolFocus and Victor Valley College is the first of its kind in North America,” said Mark Crowley, President and CEO of SolFocus. “SolFocus technology can scale up or down very easily to accommodate a wide variety of energy demands from smaller distributed generation projects to utility scale projects.”

**About SolFocus**

*The SolFocus mission is to enable solar energy generation at a Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) competitive with traditional fossil fuel sources. To achieve this goal, SolFocus has developed leading concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) technology which combines high-efficiency solar cells (approaching 40 percent) and advanced optics to provide solar energy solutions which are scalable, dependable and capable of delivering on the promise of clean, low-cost, renewable energy. SolFocus is headquartered in Mountain View, California with European operations headquartered in Madrid, Spain, and manufacturing in Mesa, Arizona, with manufacturing partners in India and China. For more information visit [solfocus.com](http://solfocus.com)*

**About Victor Valley College**

*Victor Valley College's mission is to teach and serve by promoting educational excellence, enhancing local prosperity, and ensuring environmental leadership. For more than 45 years, the college has served students from the High Desert, across the country, and around the world. The same pioneering spirit that brought people to the high desert region of the country drove local residents to move the college forward from a shared idea to a burgeoning reality. Sustainability and environmental stewardship are key goals of the college's curriculum, along with its strong educational program and diverse student base. Victor Valley College is one of 109 community colleges in California that are attended by 10 percent of all students in the United States. For more information visit [vvc.edu](http://vvc.edu).*